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were reported, but no special importance was attached to this fact, as every year a number of such cases have to be recorded. Toward the middle of September the cases increased to such an extent that the authorities became alarmed, and immediately took in hand the combating of the disease with the greatest energy. As in most cases water has been found to be the bearer of the typhoid bacilli, the inhabitants of the district were warned of the danger of drinking water unless it had been previously boiled. The whole neighborhood of Gelsenkirchen is supplied by the waterworks for the northern coal center, and as the spread of the disease corresponded exactly with the district supplied by this water system, it was natural to suspect that in some unexplained manner typhoid bacilli had gotten into the water system and had there increased to an exceedingly dangerous extent.

This supposition was strengthened by the observation of the fact that the main water pipe leads from Steele, a place on the river Ruhr about an hour's walk from Gelsenkirchen, where the water supply is taken in, through the commune of Rotthausen, which belongs to the Rhine Province, to Gelsenkirchen. Cases of typhoid fever occurred in all the houses in Rotthausen which derived their water supply from the main pipe, while the occupants of those houses located at a distance from the main pipe and who derived their water supply from wells remained free from the disease.

The announcement of Professor Koch, who had hurried to the spot in order to place his services at the disposal of the authorities in combating the disease, that he intended to avail himself of the permission of the president of the district to lay open the whole system of pipes by excavations had the effect of forcing the managers of the waterworks to make the disclosure that from the river Ruhr a direct pipe led to a water reservoir, which was mostly used from Wednesdays to Sundays, and that therefore unfiltered water had been pumped into the pipes out of a river in which the drain pipes of the whole district were emptied, and this pipe with its loathsome contents was still in use up to September 25, a date at which the disease had been raging in a terrible manner for fourteen days. Further investigations have been opened, and it is to be hoped that the avenging arm of justice will reach those who are to blame for the misfortune that has befallen the district.

FRANK H. MASON,
United States Consul General.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

GUATEMALA.

Report from Livingston—Fruit port.

LIVINGSTON, GUATEMALA, *October 24, 1901.*

SIR: I have to make the following report of the conditions and transactions at this port during the week ended October 24, 1901:

Number of cases and deaths from yellow fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from smallpox during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from typhus fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from cholera during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from plague during the week, none; number of deaths from other causes during the week, none; prevailing diseases, malarial. General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

Bills of health were issued to the following vessels: October 19, steamship *Syria*; crew, 44; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, 2; pieces of baggage disinfected, none. October 24, steamship *Bergenser*; crew, 16; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, none; steamship *Esperanza*; crew, 14; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, none.

Respectfully,

W. K. FORT,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

Vessels touching at Honolulu to file a copy of their bills of health.

HONOLULU, H. I., October 19, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Department letter dated the 30th ultimo (E. B. S.), relative to the matter of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha filing a copy of their bills of health at this office.

In reply I have to state that since the matter of the British steamers *Miowera* and *Moana* (Fine Cases 106 and 109), I deemed it advisable to request the masters of all vessels touching at this port, en route to and from foreign ports, to file a copy of their bills of health, and, as they are usually issued in triplicate by the United States consul, I did not consider it would be any hardship for the masters to comply with this request and it would furnish this office with a proper record.

I beg to thank you for supporting me in this matter.

Respectfully,

E. R. STACKABLE,

Collector of Customs.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Influenza and dysentery.

HONOLULU, H. I., October 25, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report that there were 37 cases of influenza and 88 cases of dysentery occurring in the Hawaiian Islands for this month up to date, this information having been furnished to this office by the Hawaiian Territorial board of health.

Respectfully,

L. E. COFER,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.,

Chief Quarantine Officer, Hawaiian Islands.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Further concerning plague-infected rats on the steamship Waialeale.

HONOLULU, H. I., October 29, 1901.

SIR: Referring to my letter of the 14th instant relative to the finding of rats dead of plague on board the steamship *Waialeale* at this port, I have the honor to inform you that up to this date there have been no further developments from this focus.

On opening the hold after the preliminary sulphur disinfection we found 12 more dead rats; 1 of them, selected at random, was examined